**Medical Abortion 101**

Medical abortion uses medications instead of surgery to end a pregnancy.

### 1. It Is Highly Effective

**MIFEPRISTONE + MISOPROSTOL**

- **MIFE** blocks progesterone in the uterus
- **MISO** causes uterus to shed its lining

**Start**

- Take 1 mifepristone tablet with a glass of water

**24-48h later**

- Put 2 misoprostol tablets in each cheek pouch for 30 mins
- Swallow remnants with a glass of water

### 2. What To Expect

**After mifepristone**

- may have some light bleeding
- many have no bleeding

**After misoprostol**

- within 3 hrs:
  - strong, painful cramping
  - bleeding heavier than a period
  - may pass lemon-sized clots
  - fever over 38°C
- within 24 hrs:
  - nausea, headache, dizziness, diarrhea
- within 2 weeks:
  - light bleeding

**Won’t see a fetus if less than 8 weeks gestation**

### 3. Managing Side Effects

- diarrhea
- vomiting/nausea
- cramping
- loperamide
- dimenhydrinate
- naproxen ibuprofen opioid

**Only use pads, not tampons**

### How to Take It

**Start**

- Take 1 mifepristone tablet with a glass of water
- causes uterus to shed its lining

**24-48h later**

- Put 2 misoprostol tablets in each cheek pouch for 30 mins
- Swallow remnants with a glass of water
- causes cervix to open and uterus to contract to push out pregnancy

### Seek Urgent Care If

- soaking 2 maxi-pads per hour for more than 2 hrs
- clots larger than a lemon for more than 2 hrs
- pain doesn’t improve with medication
- fever, nausea, diarrhea, or weakness occurring 24 hrs after taking misoprostol

### After the Abortion

- ovulation can happen within 8 days of an abortion
- can start birth control pills after taking misoprostol
- can have IUD inserted 7-14 days after misoprostol
- see abortion provider in 7-14 days to confirm the abortion is complete